(a) whether the persons responsible for burning 45 passengers to death in Kakatiya Express near Hyderabad last year have been identified; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime on the railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the State Governments/ Union Territory administrations. Action to register, investigate and detect the crime under reference is to be taken by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Subsidy on Pesticides

5073. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to continue the subsidy on pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow free distribution of pesticides among the farmers to check the pest attack on pulses and oil seeds crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). the Government is currently giving subsidy to farmers on pesticides under the following programmes viz.:

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Control of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance;

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Oilseeds Production Programme;

(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Pulses Development Programme;

(iv) Special Foodgrain Production Programme (Pulses);

(v) Integrated Programme for Rice Development;

(vi) Special Foodgrain Production Programme (Maize & Millets);

(vii) Intensive Cotton Development Programme; and

(viii) Special Jute Development Programme.

Subsidy on Plant Protection under above programmes is given @ 50% of the cost of chemicals subject to certain ceiling limits.

Government propose to continue these programmes for the time being.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to part (c), question does not arise.

[English]

Visit of Sail Team to Middle East Countries

5074. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of the Steel Authority of India Limited recently visited several middle east countries; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit of the SAIL team lead by its Additional Director, Export Division took place in July-August, 1991. The team made an assessment of market condition, studied the prospects of business in the area, and the status of competition etc. and have recommended the establishment of warehousing facilities and/or consignment-cum-selling agency at Dubai to promote SAIL's exports in the countries of the region.

Passports Missing from R.P.O. Chandigarh

5075. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some passports are missing from the Regional passport Office, Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such incidents during each of the last three years alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Since 1989, 34 passports from RPO Chandigarh have been found to be missing. These were submitted to that office for renewal/Misc. services and later on it was noticed that these were not traceable. Loss of these 34 passports were noticed on different occasions (13.4.89, 30.7.91 and 7.8.91). Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) In all the above cases, FIRs with the local police have been lodged for investigation, the results of which are still awaited. Existing instructions have once again been reiterated to all passport Offices for the safe custody of passports. Passport Officers have been advised to lodge FIRS with police when passports are not traceable in offices in future.

STATEMENT

Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh

Sl. No.	*Name of applicant*	*File No.*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	Tarawati Singala	RE/1674/89
2.	Raminder Kaur Randhawa	RE/3884/89